



WOMEN UNDER NAZI PERSECUTION:

A Primary Source Supplement Based on Documents from the International Tracing Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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providing high-resolution scans of the original documents for publication.*

Cover photo: Jewish women forced to do physical labor on “Industry Street” in the Płaszów labor camp. The forced labor of concentration camp inmates was an integral part of Nazi Germany’s system of conquest, exploitation, and persecution. The Płaszów camp was built under the authority of the SS (*Schutzstaffel*, the elite guard of the Nazi state) on the site of two Jewish cemeteries in a southeastern district of Kraków, Poland in 1942. The camp complex contained separate sections for Poles and Jews, who were further separated into men’s and women’s subdivisions. At Płaszów, civilian businessmen, including Oskar Schindler, operated industrial projects and exploited the forced labor of camp inmates. These women are pulling a rail cart filled with stones from the camp quarry past women’s barracks. This photograph was taken sometime in 1943 or 1944, which makes it likely that these women had been selected as able-bodied forced laborers during the liquidation of the Kraków ghetto in March 1943. German authorities murdered over 4,000 Jewish men, women, and children in that action and relocated approximately 2,000 of the able-bodied survivors of the Kraków ghetto to work in Płaszów, where conditions were horrible and prisoners were often summarily shot. Płaszów camp commandant Amon Göth, who was notoriously featured in the film “Schindler’s List,” was tried by the Polish Supreme National Tribunal (Najwyższy Trybunał Narodowy—NTN) and found guilty of membership in a criminal association and for shared intent to commit mass murder. He was hanged on September 13, 1946.

Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Leopold Page Photographic Collection.

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HUNGARIAN JEWISH WOMEN AND CHILDREN WALK TO THE GAS CHAMBERS OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL.

This photograph is one of nearly 200 images depicting the arrival of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Two SS officers who worked in the camp's photographic laboratory took the pictures in late May or early June 1944 and bound them in an album intended for presentation to the camp commandant. The so-called Auschwitz Album was discovered by former prisoner Lili Jacob (later Zelmanovic Meier) after the war in nearby SS quarters and was later presented as evidence in the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials of 1963-1965. The women and children in this photograph, deported from Subcarpathian Rus (located in wartime Hungary, now Ukraine), walk along barbed wire barricades in front of prisoner barracks on their way to the gas chambers and crematoria. Because the Auschwitz camp complex contained labor camps as well as facilities for industrialized mass murder, SS doctors and camp guards selected able-bodied adults upon their arrival to exploit for forced labor. The elderly, small children, and infants were therefore deemed useless and sent directly to the gas chamber. Many women refused to be separated from their children and chose instead to die with them. Note the women and children pictured above in heavy winter clothing despite the summer weather. Urging Jews to bring their valuables with them also facilitated systematic theft by the Nazis and their collaborators.

Photo credit: Wiener Library

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WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS)?

The Allied powers established the International Tracing Service (ITS) after World War II to help reunite families separated during the war and to trace missing family members. Millions of pages of captured documentation have been repurposed for tracing, and the ITS has continued to grow as new records, both originals and copies, have been deposited there. For decades, the ITS strove not only to clarify the fates of victims of the Nazis but also to provide survivors and victims' families with the documentation necessary for indemnification claims. In November 2007, the archive was made accessible to scholars and other researchers, and both tracing and scholarly research continues today onsite at the ITS in Bad Arolsen, Germany, as well as at digital copyholders around the world. The ITS Digital Archive is currently available in Bad Arolsen, Brussels, Jerusalem, London, Luxembourg, Paris, Warsaw, and Washington, DC.

USING THE ITS ARCHIVE TO RESEARCH WOMEN UNDER NAZI PERSECUTION

The digitization of the ITS Archive has opened new potential for research beyond the collections' original intended purpose of tracing individuals. One can explore themes through indexed attributes, a keyword search function, and optical character recognition digital scanning tools. Such possibilities exist and function only *because of* digitization, enabling access to original material by place, topic, or even a particular word or terminology.

This primary source supplement, "Women under Nazi Persecution," illustrates how subjects that span the varied and vast records of the ITS can be mined and culled together in revealing and educational ways. Much of the material is in German and thus it is necessary to start with terms and subject areas as they might be known in the German language of the twentieth century and in the terminology of the 1930s and 1940s. To find materials related to forced sex labor, for example, one must know the 1940s term(s) for so-called prostitutes (the Nazis used such euphemisms to refer to women forced into sex slavery). Entering into the search tool the era's pejorative German word for prostitute, "*Dirne*" (etymologically, a female servant), or its related terms "*Dirnen*," and "*Dirnenbaus*," yields a wealth of documentation on the topic of forced sex labor. "*Prostituierte*" and other derivations of that word do not. Similarly, to find records regarding abortion, one must use the search term "*Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung*," and to find more information about the concentration camp "brothels" in general, the German translation "*Bordell*" yields many results.

Thus for thematic searches, one should be familiar with the terminology of the time and have some working knowledge about the subject area under investigation. Prepared with information related to the specific sites at which women were interned, for example, a researcher can also peruse sub-collections of materials by camp or prison name (for example, Polte-Magdeburg, as with Document 2). And a search for documents and letters created by women (Document 7) or for women's names among listings of prisoner effects (Document 3) reveals items that by virtue of their creators' or owners' identity and gender have to do with particularly female topics. The scholarly potential of the ITS Archive has grown and multiplied in the few short years of its availability to researchers, and increased access and developing technology indicate that this will continue into the future.

WOMEN UNDER NAZI PERSECUTION: AN INTRODUCTION

BY REBECCA BOEHLING

Department of History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Director of the International Tracing Service, 2013-2015

The Nazis oppressed, persecuted, and ultimately sought to annihilate European Jewry and the Roma and Sinti in a quest to strengthen and propagate a superior German “race” and an ideal “Aryan” community. This campaign also included policies to forcibly sterilize and “euthanize” mentally and physically disabled individuals deemed “lives unworthy of life,” unfit to exist within the so-called master race. Slavic peoples resident in the lands that the Nazis conquered and occupied also were considered *Untermenschen* (subhuman), exploited for forced labor, and murdered en masse. The Nazis targeted their political opponents and members of groups with religious and pacifist views that conflicted with National Socialist ideology, as well as those possessing “asocial” traits considered genetically based and anyone exhibiting social behavior that did not conform to Nazi ideals or requirements.

Although the Nazis targeted both men and women for persecution because of their beliefs, actions, or supposed racial inferiority, they viewed their victims through a gendered lens, a perspective that directly affected their treatment. The centrality of concerns about race and eugenics in Nazi ideology foregrounded women’s biological roles as reproducers in decisions concerning their treatment, both for those deemed to be of biologically “good stock” and those who were not. As German historian Gisela Bock first noted, the Nazi regime was both racist and sexist in that its primary concern with women was their role as mothers.¹ The maternal aspects of the lives of persecuted women came under assault beyond forced sterilizations and coerced abortions. The Nazis often held wives and female relatives hostage to coerce male opponents of the regime to return from hiding or exile. They further punished these (sometimes apolitical) women as mothers by stripping them of custody of their children, a loss compounded by the fact that their

offspring would be raised in Nazi homes. Scientific thought about who should and who should not reproduce was unique neither to the Nazis nor to the 1930s and 1940s. English scientist Francis Galton coined the term *eugenics* (meaning “good birth”) in 1883 and eugenicists promoted sterilization laws in the early twentieth century in Denmark, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States. It is important, though, to consider the ways that gender – both as biological sex and as a social construct – affected the Nazi persecution of women because such beliefs were put into extreme practice over much of German-occupied Europe.

The Nazis encouraged the procreation of “Aryan” men and women to enhance the quality and quantity of “good racial stock” among Germans. They achieved this with financial incentives (initially paid only to men) and honors and privileges that promoted motherhood and large families. The Nazis preferred such alternatives to women competing within the labor force, particularly as the effects of the Depression lingered. Later, labor shortages caused by the draft of German men into the military forced a turn to the conscription of foreign laborers, which first focused on male workers and the use of POWs. But as the war progressed, increasing numbers of Polish and Soviet women were brought into the Greater German Reich to fill agricultural, domestic, and industrial labor shortages. Considered less subversive and more compliant than men, female forced laborers could be fully exploited with long night work, for example, as they enjoyed neither rights nor employee benefits. Women comprised one-third of foreign forced laborers registered in the Reich by August 1944.²

The Nazis brought foreign labor into the wartime Reich while they simultaneously resettled Germans in the East in the name of *Lebensraum*, a policy beset with contradictions. Transplanted Germans

¹Gisela Bock, “Racism and Sexism in Nazi Germany: Motherhood, Compulsory Sterilization, and the State,” in *Signs. Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 8/3 (1983): 400–42.

²Ulrich Herbert, *Hitler’s Foreign Workers: Enforced Foreign Labor in Germany under the Third Reich* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 296.

entered into relationships in the East that resulted in pregnancies, just as foreign laborers of allegedly inferior races who had been deported to work in Germany developed sexual relationships with Germans of “good stock.” In both cases, the resultant pregnancies “corrupted” the German gene pool and created two dilemmas: decreased labor productivity during the latter phase of a female worker’s pregnancy and a need to decide the fate of these “mixed” progeny. The Nazis compelled many forced laborers to abort their pregnancies, a procedure not available to German women. Mothers were forced to surrender children considered to be of “inferior racial stock” to facilities in which they were murdered, often by starvation. If Nazi officials deemed a child to be in possession of enough “good stock,” however, they might be raised as Germans by German foster or adoptive parents but rarely with the permission of their biological mothers from whom they had been taken.

Gender also played a significant role in the experiences of Jewish victims of the Nazis. Historian Judith Baumel has described the particular predicament of Jewish women as a “double jeopardy,” and stressed that while death was similar for men and women, survival was different.³ Women comprised a disproportionate amount of Jews in ghettos in the Nazi occupied East, where most were confined before their deportation to labor or death camps. Many Jewish men had fled, gone into hiding, or joined the partisans, while women had been more likely to stay behind to tend to young, elderly, or ill family members and thus comprised a majority of those who fell under Nazi domination and were deported to ghettos and concentration camps. In addition, women typically live longer than men and at that time were in the slight majority in the overall population. All of these factors contributed to a greater proportion of women deported to death camps, along with their children. Men were more likely to have been sent to labor camps.⁴

With the exception of a family camp at Auschwitz for Sinti and Roma and one for a select group of Jews in Theresienstadt, the Nazis immediately segregated men and women upon arrival at concentration camps. Age and outward signs of health factored into a Nazi official’s selection of both Jewish men and women either to live (as a slave laborer) or to be murdered upon arrival at a death camp or thereafter during periodic roll calls and inspections, but gender differences also arose in the assessment of one’s physical condition. Traces of brute toughness might advantage a man, for example, while scars or bruising could cause a camp guard to consider a woman injury prone, and thus the same marks might condemn her to the gas chambers.⁵ Women of all ages were sent to their deaths more often than men, also because they were more likely to be with and to stay with small children and frail, elderly relatives at the time of selection.

Interestingly, women who survived the initial selection apparently benefited from a somewhat better chance of surviving the poor sanitary conditions and malnutrition prevalent in the death camps. Some social scientists have argued that this was due to women’s domestic skills, their tendencies to form small, family-like support groups, and a proclivity to share scarce resources. Men, in contrast, more often had been socialized to act and to be on their own; but in the system of subordination and oppression found in Nazi concentration camps, resourcefulness and solidarity might well have improved their chances for survival. Differences in the kinds of work assigned to female prisoners and the punishments enacted upon them also provided them better possibilities to endure. The Nazis regarded isolation as an “effective” punitive measure for women, while they deemed food deprivation the best way to “break” men.⁶ These factors combined to foster the survival of a majority of Jewish women forced into slave labor, but overall the Nazis murdered more Jewish women than men. Women comprised some 40 percent of Jewish survivors, a

³Judith Tydor Baumel, *Double Jeopardy: Gender and the Holocaust* (London and Portland, Oregon: Valentine Mitchell, 1998), 26.

⁴See Michael Unger, “The Status and Plight of Women in the Lodz Ghetto,” in *Women in the Holocaust*, edited by Dalia Ofer and Leonore J. Weitzman (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1998), 123–42.

⁵Baumel, *Double Jeopardy*, 21f.

⁶See Sybil Milton, “Women and the Holocaust: The Case of German and German-Jewish Women,” in *Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust*, edited by Carol Rittner and John K. Roth (New York: Paragon House, 1998), 213–48. See also in the same volume, Joan Ringelheim, “Women and the Holocaust: A Reconsideration of Research,” 373–405.

number that corresponded with the percentage of women among the surviving remnant of European Jews in the Displaced Persons (DP) camps set up by the Allies for survivors after the war.⁷

Women experienced humiliation and shame differently than men, and especially those religious Jews who had led comparatively sheltered lives. Upon arrival at concentration camps, men and women often were shaved of all body hair while forced to straddle chairs, naked. They endured the examination of their body cavities, as they were searched – mainly by men – for hidden valuables and other illicit materials. The loss of hair and the sexual vulnerability that nudity represented for women, alongside frequent taunting and touching, added to the trauma and shock of arrival at a camp.

In all incarceration and forced labor situations, women were vulnerable to rape and sexual abuse. Some were compelled to trade sexual favors for food or better work details in attempts to increase their chances of survival and that of their immediate social or familial circle. The Nazis established so-called brothels in concentration camps and recruited non-Jewish female prisoners to work in them as forced “prostitutes” for Wehrmacht soldiers, SS officers, and male prisoners. Visits to such “bordellos” served not only as an incentive for productivity or a morale builder for men, but also as a potential “cure” for homosexual prisoners the Nazis wanted to “re-educate” to heterosexuality, lest they waste their potential to breed. Women forced to serve as sex laborers were largely recruited from the Ravensbrück concentration camp, usually with an assurance of release after six months of their “service.” No such promises were kept, nor was the official policy upheld to ensure that only former prostitutes worked in camp brothels. When these women later returned to Ravensbrück, some were infected with venereal diseases and for this reason found themselves selected for deportation to death camps.

Other women and male inmates frequently treated such forced sex workers with derision, condemning them as immoral and promiscuous, both during and after the war.⁸

Perceptions of women definitively shaped their experiences under Nazi persecution. In the National Socialist view, certain women carried the responsibility for reproducing and perpetuating a *Volksgemeinschaft* (literally, people’s community; a central concept in National Socialist thought regarding the unity of the so-called race of the national-German-Aryan community), while at the same time others were worthy only of slave labor, sexual exploitation, and death. A biological role as a potential or actual mother was very much bound to women’s experiences of persecution under the Nazis, as well as to their own gendered expectations, those of Nazi perpetrators, and those of fellow victims, male and female. Such views shaped expectations of their capacity to work, the punishments they suffered, and the time of their deaths.

⁷Baumel, *Double Jeopardy*, 31f.

⁸Claus Füllberg-Stolberg, Martina Jung, Renate Riebe, and Martina Scheitenberger, eds. *Frauen in Konzentrationslagern: Bergen-Belsen; Ravensbrück* (Bremen: Edition Temmen, 1994), 10. See also in the same volume, Christa Schulz, “Weibliche Häftlinge aus Ravensbrück in Bordellen der Männerkonzentrationslager,” 135–46.

MEMO REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR ABORTION MADE BY POLISH FORCED LABORER BARBARA KOSCIELNIAK

This is an example of a typical memo issued by the *Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums* [Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Nationhood] to document a foreign forced laborer's application for the termination of pregnancy, the decision issued by the responsible authority, and any instruction about carrying out orders. In this case, the expected child of these two specific Polish laborers was deemed to be of good racial stock and therefore the mother's request for abortion was denied.

NO-4370
1 22/Ba

Der höhere SS- und Polizeiführer
im Wehrkreis XIII
Beauftragter des Reichskommissars
für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums
Nürnberg, Ernt-damm-Rath-Pflanz 24

15. April 44
Nürnberg, Den 19
Tel. 44 241

An die
NSDAP-Gauleitung Mainfranken,
Amt für Volkswohlfahrt,
Würzburg,
Fritz Schillinger-Haus.

Betreff: Behandlung der von ausländischen Arbeiterinnen
im Reich geborenen Kinder.

Die Polin Barbara Koscielniak, geb. 4.3.1918
in Pomieze, wohnhaft in Würzburg-Frauenland, Zeppelin-
Strasse (Polenlager), erwartet ein Kind (6. Monat),
dessen Erzeuger der Pole Zbigniew Komski, geb.
22.10.1921 in Przemysl, wohnhaft in Würzburg, Eckstrasse
(Polenlager), ist.

Einen von der Kindesmutter gestellten Antrag auf Schwanger-
schaftsunterbrechung wurde nicht stattgegeben, weil
mit einem rassisch guten Nachwuchs zu rechnen ist.

Ich bitte, nach der Geburt des Kindes dieses in die
Betreuung der NSV für gutrassige Kinder zu übernehmen.

I.A.
[Signature]
SS-Hauptsturmführer.

Keine Geburtsurkunde

Memo regarding the application for abortion made by Polish forced laborer Barbara Koscielniak,
15 April 1944, 4.1.2/81794739/ITS Digital Archive.

MEMO REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR ABORTION MADE BY POLISH FORCED LABORER BARBARA KOSCIELNIAK

TRANSLATION

Higher SS- and Police Leader
Military District XIII
Representative of the Reich Commissioner
for the Strengthening of German Nationhood
Nürnberg, Ernst-vom-Rath-Allee 24

Nürnberg, 15 April 1944
Tel: 44 241

To the
NSDAP-Regional Office of Mainfranken,
Office for the People's Welfare,

Würzburg,
=====
Fritz Schillinger-Haus.

Subject: Treatment of foreign female laborers' children born within the Reich

The Pole Barbara Koscielniak, born 4 March 1918 in Pomieze, resident of Würzburg-Frauenland, Zeppelin-Strasse (Polish Camp), is expecting a child (6th month), the father of which is the Pole Zbigniew Kowski, born 22 October 1921 in Przemyśl, resident of Würzburg, Eckstrasse (Polish Camp).

The mother's application to request termination of the pregnancy has not been approved because their offspring is expected to be of good racial stock.

I request that after the child's birth it be placed in the care of the NSV [*Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt*; National Socialist People's Welfare] for racially valuable children.

Signed
(illegible signature)
SS-Captain

MEMO REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR ABORTION MADE BY POLISH FORCED LABORER BARBARA KOSCIELNIAK

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- What is the subject of this memorandum, and how does this topic reflect the doctrines of Nazi racial ideology?
- When and where was this memorandum written? What might the date suggest about the document? Does this indicate anything about the development of Nazi policy?
- Who authored this memo, and what was his or her position in the Third Reich? What can the purpose of the author's office tell us about this document?
- Why was the case decided as it was? What does this reveal about Nazi concepts of race?
- Consider why this application was rejected and how it might have been answered if the parents had not been deemed to be "of good racial stock." Who was considered "racially valuable" by the Nazis, and who was not? Does this document reveal inconsistencies within this racial ideology?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- Nazi reproductive policies in the Reich and in the occupied territories
- The treatment and experiences of female foreign forced laborers in the Third Reich
- Interactions between foreign forced laborers under Nazi oppression
- The children of foreign forced laborers under the Nazis



JEWISH FORCED LABORERS UNDER GERMAN GUARD IN THE DĘBLIN GHETTO.

Pictured at the very center of the group above is Elcia Helga Rechenman (later Elcia Berger), dressed in a gray sweater and dark kerchief, empty-handed with her arms at her sides. Elcia was fourteen years old when this photograph was taken in 1941. The *Wehrmacht* (the German army) occupied her hometown of Puławy, Poland in mid-September 1939 during the first weeks of the war. When the German authorities declared that Puławy must become *Judenfrei* (literally, “free of Jews”) that December, they deported the Rechenman family and incarcerated them in the newly-created ghetto for Jews in the nearby town of Dęblin. In 1942, Elcia’s parents and her disabled sister were deported from Dęblin to the killing centers of Sobibor and Treblinka. Elcia and her older sister remained as forced laborers on the large airfield at Dęblin until the camp was liquidated. In July 1944, the Red Army approached and the German authorities transferred Elcia and approximately 1,200 others to work in a munitions factory hundreds of kilometers to the west in Częstochowa. Elcia’s sister was likely among the dozens murdered during the liquidation of the Dęblin labor camp. Advancing Soviet forces liberated Elcia from Częstochowa on January 16, 1945, one day after her eighteenth birthday. After waiting in a Displaced Persons camp in Regensburg, Germany for several years, she immigrated to the United States in 1952. This photograph was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by one of Elcia’s children.

Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Barbara Berger Tartell.

2 OVERVIEW OF BUCHENWALD SUBCAMP POLTE-MAGDEBURG INMATE POPULATION CHANGES

This document shows changes in the prisoner-worker headcount at the women's labor camp at Polte-Magdeburg, a subcamp of Buchenwald, over a three-month period (August - November 1944). This camp was established on 14 June 1944 at the Polte-Werke factory and was first administered by the Ravensbrück concentration camp and later fell under the control of the Buchenwald camp system. In September 1944, 60 percent of the women incarcerated there were Soviet civilian laborers, many of whom had previously attempted to escape imprisonment. The Nazis seem to have concentrated them together, first at Ravensbrück and then at Polte-Magdeburg. Many of the other prisoners there had been arrested during the August 1944 Warsaw Uprising.

Politische Abteilung		Weimar-Buchenwald, 4. Nov. 1944	
<u>Polte - Magdeburg</u>		91	
Übersicht über die Kommandostärke nach den hier vorliegenden Meldungen			
		Bestand	
Grundbestand nach dortiger Liste vom 7.10.44		1851	
8. 8. 2 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Nikiforowa, Wera	Hftl-Nr. 33.111	1849	
Jefremowa, Walja	" 32.303		
21. 8. 5 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Kudlik, Tamara	Hftl-Nr. 32.813		
Timofejewa, Nina	" 33.856		
Melnikowa, Kawałja	" 33.039		
Kulakowa, Lidia	" 33.853		
Isolowa, Walja	" 32.497	1844	
26. 8. 1 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Kolonowa, Anna	Hftl-Nr. 32.811	1843	
9. 9. 1 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Litwinowa, Lina	Hftl-Nr. 32.855	1842	
11. 9. 3 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Schalimowa, Wally	Hftl-Nr. 33.633		
Maur, Olga	" 33.600		
Karpenko, Fedosija	" 32.669	1839	
22. 9. 2 Wiederergriffene zugesetzt:			
Maur, Olga	Hftl-Nr. 33.600		
Karpenko, Fedosija	" 32.669	1841	
24. 9. 1 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Achtyrskaja, Zofia	Hftl-Nr. 32.009	1840	
3.10. 1 Verstorbene abgesetzt:			
Ratschkowa, Jozefa	Hftl-Nr. 33.365	1839	
11.10. 3 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Maur, Olga	Hftl-Nr. 33.600		
Gerasitschkina, Raisa	" 32.420		
Kalinina, Walentina	" 32.833	1836	
14.10. 4 Flüchtige abgesetzt:			
Lianowa, Sina	Hftl-Nr. 32.848		
Kwiatkowska, Barbara	" 32.734		
Iwanowa, Irena	" 32.496		
Omeltschenko, Katja	" 33.164	1832	
22.10. 1 Verstorbene abgesetzt:			
Chwiezd, Sophie	Hftl-Nr. 32.486	1831	
3.11 1 Entlassene abgesetzt:			
Maslovska, Maria	Hftl-Nr. 32.969	1830	

Overview of Buchenwald subcamp Polte-Magdeburg inmate population changes, 4 November 1944, 1.1.5.0/82073731/ITS Digital Archive.

OVERVIEW OF BUCHENWALD SUBCAMP POLTE-MAGDEBURG

INMATE POPULATION CHANGES

TRANSLATION

Political Department

Weimar-Buchenwald, 4 Nov 1944

Polte - Magdeburg

Overview of commando strength to date according to reports accessible

			<u>Population</u>
	Basic population since the 7 October 1944 list		1851
8. 8.	2 escapees subtracted: Nikiforowa, Wera Jefremowa, Walja	Prisoner No. 33,111 " 32,303	1849
21. 8.	5 escapees subtracted: Kudlik, Tamara Timofejewa, Nina Melnikowa, Kawdija Kulakowa, Lidia Isolowa, Walja	Prisoner No. 32,813 " 33,856 " 33,039 " 33,853 " 32,497	1844
26. 8.	1 escapee subtracted: Kolonowa, Anna	Prisoner No. 32,811	1843
9. 9.	1 escapee subtracted: Litwinowa, Lina	Prisoner No. 32,855	1842
11. 9.	3 escapees subtracted: Schalimowa, Wally Maur, Olga Karpenko, Fedosija	Prisoner No. 33,633 " 33,600 " 32,669	1839
22. 9.	2 recaptured escapees added: Maur, Olga Karpenko, Fedosija	Prisoner No. 33,600 " 32,669	1841
24. 9.	1 escapee subtracted: Achtyskaja, Zofia	Prisoner No. 32,009	1840
3. 10.	1 deceased prisoner subtracted: Ratschkowa, Jozefa	Prisoner No. 33,365	1839
11. 10.	3 escapees subtracted: Maur, Olga Gerasitschkina, Raisa Kalinina, Walentina	Prisoner No. 33,600 " 32,420 " 32,833	1836
14. 10.	4 escapees subtracted: Lianowa, Sina Kwiatkowska, Barbara Iwanowa, Irena Omeltschenko, Katja	Prisoner No. 32,848 " 32,734 " 32,496 " 33,164	1832
22. 10.	1 deceased prisoner subtracted: Chwiezd, Sophie	Prisoner No. 32,486	1831
3. 11.	1 released prisoner subtracted: Maslowska, Maria	Prisoner No. 32,969	1830

OVERVIEW OF BUCHENWALD SUBCAMP POLTE-MAGDEBURG INMATE POPULATION CHANGES

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- Who authored this document, and to whom was it directed? Are there clues that reveal why he or she might have written it?
- Why would the SS administration focus on escapes from the subcamp?
- What might be inferred from the number of prisoner escapes over such a relatively short period of time?
- What does this document suggest about the escapees and their coping mechanisms? What does it suggest about the administration and structure of the camp?
- Note that Olga Maur escaped from the camp with other female forced laborers on two separate occasions. With whom did she escape, and with whom was she recaptured? What might this suggest about these escapees' survival strategies?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- The demographics and possibilities of resistance among women in forced labor subcamps and work commandos
- Interactions between prisoners in concentration camps and those in attached and co-located forced labor camps
- Prisoner escape from concentration and labor camps
- Camp administration practices and the monitoring of changes in the inmate population



FEMALE FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS HELD IN THE STADELHEIM PRISON WORK IN A FACTORY OWNED BY THE AGFA CAMERA COMPANY. The economy of Nazi Germany relied on a widespread system of foreign forced labor, as the war placed massive strains on the available workforce. The regime that had promised to purge the nation of foreign elements paradoxically brought some seven and a half million foreign forced laborers to work in the Reich during the war. The Nazis' hierarchical racial system branded these foreign workers "inferior Slavs" and determined their living and working conditions. The approximately three million Soviet civilian *Ostarbeiter* (forced laborers from the East; literally, "eastern workers") among the forced laborers occupied the lowest positions within this structure, living and working in difficult conditions. These *Ostarbeiterinnen* (female forced laborers from the East) are working on the assembly line of a munitions factory operated by the civilian business AGFA. The firm was one of several German companies that merged to form IG Farben, the infamous chemical conglomerate that provided Auschwitz camp authorities with the deadly Zyklon-B used to murder Jews in gas chambers. This photograph, taken in May 1943, was presented as evidence in the trial of IG Farben executives after the war. The woman wearing a dress (top left) seems to be a German civilian. Forced laborers often worked side by side with German civilians, but by war's end forced laborers comprised 60 percent of the work force supporting the war effort.

Photo credit: National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

3 IMAGES OF SOVIET FORCED LABORER **ALEXANDRA BELEZKA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS** pg. 1

The International Tracing Service collections include more than paper documents. Within ITS physical holdings one can also explore unclaimed prisoner effects from a number of Nazi concentration camps and prisons.

Soviet forced laborer Alexandra Belezka owned the cosmetic compact pictured here. Belezka had moved through the Nazi camp system from Ravensbrück to Flossenbürg and then to Neuengamme, where she arrived on 18 February 1945.



Images of Soviet forced laborer Alexandra Belezka's personal effects, 1.2.9.3/108003201/ITS Digital Archive.

IMAGES OF SOVIET FORCED LABORER **ALEXANDRA BELEZKA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS** pg. 2

This cosmetic compact was among her possessions the Nazis claimed and kept with other prisoner effects at Neuengamme.

When ITS employees disassembled Belezka's compact to take photographs for the digital collection, they found an address written on a scrap of paper hidden under the powder insert. No information is known about this address and no further evidence exists in the ITS archive about Belezka's fate.



IMAGES OF SOVIET FORCED LABORER ALEXANDRA BELEZKA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- Why might Belezka have taken this cosmetic compact with her to a concentration camp?
- Can an object like this reveal anything about the life or character of its owner?
- Why might Belezka have kept an address on the scrap of paper hidden under the powder?
- Why did concentration camp officials collect and save prisoners' belongings?
- How might a researcher use an object like this in his or her work?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- Prisoners' personal effects and other artifacts from the Nazi camp system
- The smuggling and hiding of items prohibited by Nazi authorities
- The various methods of resistance within the camp system
- The practice and preservation of female identity among camp inmates

4 MEMO REGARDING FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS' PREGNANCIES AND RESULTING CHILDREN pg. 1

This document describes the guidelines and regulations for the treatment of female foreign forced laborers who became pregnant during their incarceration and the children resulting from such pregnancies. The author indicated a problem with the imprecise implementation of official procedure and thus the necessity for this second memorandum on the topic to explicitly state the prescribed treatment of these women and the termination (or not) of their pregnancies.

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
Reichsleitung

NSDAP. Reichsleitung
Hauptamt für Volkswohlfahrt
Fernsprecher: 62 30 01 u. 62 30 11 Sammel-Nr.

Postfachkonto: Berlin Nr. 30768 NS-Volkswohlfahrt
Reichsleitung
Bankkonto: Bank der Deutschen Arbeit A.-G., Berlin,
Konto Nr. 6705 NS-Volkswohlfahrt Reichsleitung

Berlin SO 36, den 20. Januar 1944
Maybachufer 48-51

23 NO-4369 110a

146
Eing. 24. JAN. 1944

Stempel: AMT WOHNFARTSPFLEGE UND JUGENDHILFE

Nr. 6/44 - H III Dr.G/Fe. An die Leiter der Ämter für Volkswohlfahrt in den Gauleitungen der NSDAP.
" " Leiter der Hauptstellen Wohlfahrtspflege und Jugendhilfe der Ämter für Volkswohlfahrt

zur Erledigung
vertraulich
zur Kenntnisnahme

Rundschreiben Nr. 10/44

Betrifft: Behandlung schwangerer ausländischer Arbeiterinnen und der im Reich von ausländischen Arbeiterinnen geborenen Kinder.

In meinem Rundschreiben Nr. 186/43 vom 9. Oktober 1943 gab ich Ihnen Kenntnis von dem Erlass des Reichsführers-SS und Chefs der Deutschen Polizei - S - IVD - 377/42 (ausl. Arb.) vom 27.7.1943. Es erscheint notwendig, nochmals auf die genaue Beachtung dieses Erlasses die Sachbearbeiterinnen für Familienhilfe und Jugendhilfe hinzuweisen. Die Bearbeitung von Anträgen auf Betreuung schwangerer ausländischer Arbeiterinnen und ihrer im Reich geborenen Kinder ist nur entsprechend den Ihnen im Rundschreiben gegebenen Richtlinien zu behandeln. Eine weitere Bearbeitung dieser Fälle ist erst dann vorzunehmen, wenn seitens des SS-Führers im RuS-Wesen die Entscheidung dahingehend getroffen worden ist, daß das Kind der ausländischen Arbeiterin als erwünscht und gutrassisch anzusehen ist.

In allen Fällen, in denen eine negative Beurteilung durch den RuS-Führer erfolgt, wird gebeten, die Entlassung aus der Betreuung der NSV. zu veranlassen und die Überweisung des Kindes in eine Kinderpflegestätte für ausländische Arbeiterinnen durchzuführen. Alle bereits in die Betreuung der NSV. genommenen Kinder von ausländischen Arbeiterinnen müssen nachträglich entsprechend den neuen Richtlinien behandelt werden.

Die Einschaltung der NSV. wird besonders dringlich durch die bereits in allen Reichsgauen anfallenden Überprüfungen von Anträgen auf Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung bei Ostarbeiterinnen und Polinnen, die gemäß der Anordnung des Reichsgesundheitsführers vom 11.3.1943 A.o.4/43 sowie des Reichsführers-SS Reichssicherheitshauptamt - IV D 186/43 g - 599 v.9.6. und 1.8.1943 zu bearbeiten sind.

Diese Anordnungen enthalten kurz folgendes:

Von den "Richtlinien für Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung und Unfruchtbarmachung aus gesundheitlichen Gründen" (herausgegeben von der Reichsärztekammer, bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. Hans Stadler, Lehmanns Verlag, München 1936) wird bei Ostarbeiterinnen abweichend verfahren

MEMO REGARDING FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS' PREGNANCIES AND RESULTING CHILDREN pg. 2

Heil. Ordnung Nr. 12 *N 4369*
und auf Wunsch der Schwangeren die Schwangerschaft unterbrochen.
Zur Erledigung solcher Wünsche soll folgendermaßen verfahren werden:

Der Antrag ist an die Gutachterstelle für Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung der zuständigen Ärztekammer zu leiten. Diese setzt sich mit dem Beauftragten des Reichskommissars für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums in Verbindung. Bei Zustimmung dieser Dienststelle zu dem Antrag auf Unterbrechung entscheidet die Gutachterstelle und beauftragt einen Arzt mit der Durchführung. Als geeignete Einrichtungen zur Durchführung kommen auch die für die Ostarbeiter eingerichteten Krankenbaracken, insbesondere diejenigen, in denen die Entbindungen von Ostarbeiterinnen stattfinden, in Betracht.

Der Reichsminister der Justiz hat gemäß § 8 der Verordnung zum Schutze der Ehe, Familie und Mutterschaft vom 9. März 1943 (RGBl. I Seite 140) bestimmt, daß bei Schwangerschaftsunterbrechungen an Ostarbeiterinnen auf Grund der Anordnung Nr. 4/43 des Reichsgesundheitsführers die Strafvorschriften gegen Abtreibung keine Anwendung finden.

Der Reichskommissar hat angeordnet, daß die Zustimmung zur Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung bei Ostarbeiterinnen seitens der Dienststellen des Reichskommissars für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums hiermit von vornherein als erteilt in den Fällen gilt, in denen es sich bei dem Erzeuger um einen fremdvölkischen (nicht-germanischen) Mann handelt.

Die Einholung der Zustimmung des Höheren SS- und Polizeiführers als Beauftragten des Reichskommissars für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums ist demgemäß nur in den Fällen erforderlich, in denen behauptet wird oder es wahrscheinlich ist, daß es sich bei dem Erzeuger um einen Deutschen oder Angehörigen eines stammesgleichen (germanischen) Volkstums handelt.

Des weiteren ist verfügt, daß diese Anordnungen auch entsprechend auf die Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung bei Polinnen (Schutzangehörige und Staatenlose polnischen Volkstums) anzuwenden sind, sofern von diesen ein Antrag auf Unterbrechung der Schwangerschaft gestellt wird.

Jedoch sind die Gutachterstellen für Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung der Ärztekammern bei Polinnen gehalten, die Zustimmung der Höheren SS- und Polizeiführer zur Schwangerschaftsunterbrechung - ohne Rücksicht auf die Volkstumszugehörigkeit des Erzeugers - in den Fällen einzuholen, in denen die Polin nach der Ansicht der Gutachterstelle einen rassisch guten Eindruck macht. Auch in diesen Fällen ist eine rassische Überprüfung der Schwangeren und des Erzeugers durchzuführen und weiterhin entsprechend zu verfahren.

Heil Hitler!



Weyand
Reichsleiter

MEMO REGARDING FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS' PREGNANCIES AND RESULTING CHILDREN

TRANSLATION pg. I

National Socialist German Workers' Party Reich Leadership

Nazi Party Leadership
Headquarters for People's Welfare
Telephone: 62 30 01 and 62 30 11

Post office account: Berlin No. 307 68
Nazi People's Welfare Administration

[swastika emblem]

Bank account: German Labor Bank, Berlin
Account number: 6705 Nazi People's
Welfare Administration

File number: _____

Berlin SO 36, 20 January 1944

Document number must be cited in any following correspondence

Maybachufer 48-51

Office for Social Welfare
and Youth Services

Nr. 6/44 - H III Dr.G/Fe.

To the Directors of the Offices for the People's Welfare in the
Regional Administrative Districts of the NSDAP
“ “ Directors of the Central Offices for Social Welfare and
Youth Services

For implementation [stamp]
Confidential [stamp]

For your information [stamp]

Memo No. 10/44

Subject: Treatment of pregnant foreign laborers and the children of foreign laborers born within the Reich

In my memo No. 186/43 of 9 October 1943, I informed you of the decree issued by the Reichsführer SS and Head of German Police S-IVD-377/42 (foreign laborers) of 27 July 1943. It seems necessary once again to point out to the officials of Family and Youth Services the need to follow this decree precisely. Applications for the support of pregnant foreign laborers and their children born within the Reich shall be processed only in accordance with the guidelines set out in this decree. Further processing of such cases shall only be carried out when an SS director within SS Race and Settlement Offices has determined that the child of the female foreign worker is wanted and to be regarded as racially sound.

In cases of a negative evaluation, staff should release the child from the care of the NSV [National Socialist People's Welfare Office] and transfer the child to a home for foreign workers' children. All children of foreign workers currently under the care of the NSV must retroactively be dealt with in accordance with the new guidelines.

It is particularly urgent to involve the NSV in light of the already existing examinations of applications for abortions by female eastern European workers and Poles throughout all Reich districts. These are to be carried out in accordance with the 11 March 1943 decree released by the Head of the Reich Health Department (Ao. 4/43) and that of the Head of the Reich Main Security Administration (IV D 186/43 g- 599) of 9 June and 1 August 1943.

In short, the orders include the following:

From Guidelines for Abortion and Sterilization for Health Reasons (published by the Reich Medical Association, edited by Prof. Dr. Hans Stadler, Lehmann's Publishing House, Munich 1936), female foreign workers shall be

MEMO REGARDING FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS' PREGNANCIES AND RESULTING CHILDREN

TRANSLATION pg.2

handled differently and abortion may be conducted at the pregnant woman's request. To carry out such wishes, the following should be undertaken:

The application shall be sent to the relevant medical association's Evaluation Office for Abortions, which will then contact the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German National Character. If the application for abortion is approved by this office, the Evaluation Office will take the decision and assign a doctor to carry out the procedure. Medical barracks equipped for eastern European workers are deemed suitable for the procedure, especially those in which eastern European women have given birth.

The Reich Minister of Justice has determined, in accordance with §8 of the Decree for the Protection of Marriage, Family, and Motherhood of 9 March 1943 (RGBl. I page 140) that in the case of abortions for eastern European female workers carried out on the basis of decree no. 4/43 of the Head of the Reich Health Department the prescribed penalties for abortion will not come into effect.

The Reich Commissioner has ordered that the consent of the offices of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Nationhood is deemed to have been given in advance in cases in which the father is a foreign (non-Germanic) man.

Seeking the consent of the higher SS- and Police Director as the representative of the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Nationhood is only required where it is claimed that or it is probable that the father is German or of an equal (Germanic) race.

It is further ordered that these guidelines be applied correspondingly to abortions carried out on female Poles (foreigners in German custody and those of stateless Polish ethnicity) when they have applied for termination of pregnancy.

The evaluation offices of the medical associations responsible for abortions for Polish women, however, are requested to seek approval of a higher SS- and Police director for the termination of pregnancy – regardless of the father's nationality – if the Polish woman makes a good racial impression on the assessor. A racial assessment of the pregnant woman and the father shall be conducted and further action shall be processed accordingly in these cases as well.

Heil Hitler!

(illegible signature)

Reich Department Head

MEMO REGARDING FOREIGN FORCED LABORERS' PREGNANCIES AND RESULTING CHILDREN

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- Who authored this document, and to whom was he or she writing? With what office was the author affiliated?
- What is the subject of this memorandum, and why might additional instruction on the topic have been deemed necessary?
- When was this document written? What could the date suggest about the development of Nazi eugenic policies?
- What does this document suggest about the involvement of medical professionals in the formulation and application of Nazi reproductive policies?
- Why was the regulation of foreign forced laborers' reproduction deemed necessary? How does this document reveal concepts of race and gender that drove Nazi policy?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- Nazi reproductive policies in the Reich and in the occupied territories
- The treatment and experiences of female foreign forced laborers in the Reich
- The children of foreign forced laborers under the Nazis
- The National Socialist People's Welfare Office



RECENTLY LIBERATED FEMALE FORCED LABORERS PHOTOGRAPHED IN JANUARY 1945 NEAR ŁÓDŹ, POLAND.

The women in front are wearing white and blue “OST” patches, which German authorities used to identify *Ostarbeiter* (forced laborers; literally, “eastern workers”). Some three million forced laborers from the conquered territories of the Soviet Union worked in the Reich during the war, and more than one-third of these forced laborers were women. Note the extremely youthful appearance of the dark-haired young woman in the foreground. She exemplifies the common German practice of compelling teenaged girls from across occupied Europe to work in a variety of agricultural, domestic, and industrial positions within Germany. After the war and their repatriation to the Soviet Union, *Ostarbeiter* and Soviet prisoners of war faced continued persecution. Forced labor or confinement under the Nazis tainted one’s record of loyalty to the Soviet regime, and under Stalin many former forced laborers were again separated from their families, incarcerated, and put to hard labor.

Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of unknown Russian archive.

5 POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE pg. 1

This testimony is part of an ITS collection created after 1949 when tracing workers sent questionnaires to survivors who had previously submitted information and documentation about their persecution to the ITS for compensation claims and other matters. Sara Joskowicz (née Tenenberg, born 1922 in Częstochowa) wrote this in a DP camp in Bavaria and submitted it to the ITS in 1950. In addition to the Neustadt-Glewe subcamp of Ravensbrück that Joskowicz describes in this piece, she survived two ghettos, a forced labor camp, Groß-Rosen, Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, and a death march, and after her liberation was treated for months in a DP hospital.

Bayerisch-Gmünd 12/3. 1950
An das
International Tracing Service
in Arolsen Kr. Waldeck

Im Besitze Ihres Schreibens vom 4.3.1950; betr. der Auskunft über das KZ-Lager Neustadt Glewe; kam ich folgende Angaben machen:

- 1) Ins KZ Lager Neustadt-Glewe, kam ich vom KZ Ravensbrück und soweit ich mich entsinnere, dauerte der Transport mit einem Zug: - 1 1/2 bis 2 st, ungefähr; so, dass die nächste grössere Ortschaft dieses Lagers, ^(der Ort) Ravensbrück anzunehmen ist. Das Lager befand sich hinter dem Dorfe, beim Walde. Es bestand aus ungefähr 5-6 Holzbaracken. Als wir dorthin ankamen wurden wir in Zimmern zu je 60-70 Personen in einem Zimmer untergebracht. Wir mussten auf dem Boden die ganze Zeit liegen da mehr Kerne Pritschen vorhanden gewesen seien. Andere die schon früher dort waren hatten Holzpritschen je 4 zum Schlafen, das waren die stockige 4-5 Pr. eins auf dem anderen aufgeschlagene Pritschen. In der Nähe dieses Lagers waren SS-Baracken die zur Lager Behörden gehörten. Als sich die Häftlinge unterwegs zur Arbeit befanden; trafen sie immer französische Kriegsgefangene; so dass mit Sicherheit anzunehmen ist dass sich in der Umgebung des Lagers ein Kr. Gefangenenlager befand.
2. Die Insassen des Lagers Neustadt-Glewe, waren zu 2 Gruppen: eine bei Tag die andere nachts; in einer Munitions Fabrik; beschäftigt. Ich selber war zur Arbeit nicht ausgerückt, da ich zu jener Zeit krank war.
3. Das Lager war mit Stacheldraht und elektrischer Spannung gesichert und durch SS-Posten bewacht.
4. Bombenangriffe fanden aufs Lager nicht statt; in der Umgebung aber schon.
5. Totenfälle fanden bereits statt; da die Krankheits-Epidemien häufig waren. Die Durchschnittszahl der Toten bin ich nicht in der Lage zu bezeichnen. Es fanden ausserdem; häufig

POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE pg. 2

- II
- Segregierungen von Kranken Häftlingen stat., die nach dem K.Z. Ravensbrück zurückgeschickt wurden und nicht mehr zurückgekehrt sind.
6. Die Zahl der Häftlinge ~~war~~ dieses Lagers war im allgemeinen nicht gross (bei meiner Ankunft) ungefähr 400-500 Personen.
 7. In diesem Lager befanden sich nur weibliche Häftlinge da dies ein Frauen Lager war.
 8. Wann das Lager eröffnet wurde kann ich nicht wissen, ich wurde dort im Mai 1945 befreit.
 9. Im Befreiungs Tag kamen Amerikanische und Russische Truppen an, dann wechselten sie ab und die Russen blieben.
 10. Das Lager wurde nicht evakuiert.
 11. Die Namen der überlebenden Mitgefangenen; die sich z.Zt. im Auslande befinden sind: Nunberg, Holzmar, Schwarberg und andere deren Namen ich nicht genau erinnere. Die Anschriften der Mitgefangenen sind mir aber nicht bekannt.
 12. Die Kleidung die wir dort tragen war Zivil. teilweise zivil; die im Rücken mit gekammzeichnet war, und teilweise war die Kleidung für die Häftlinge die zur Arbeit ausrückten, mit einem anders farbigen Ärmel der die Überkleidung gekennzeichnet.
 13. Ich nehme an dass dieses Lager ^{K.Z.} zum Ravensbrück gehörte.
 14. Zwei Tage vor unser Befreiung wurden wir in die Baracken hineingetrieben und versperrt: Die Fenster wurden verdrückt und die Türen festgesperrt, und wir bekamen überhaupt nichts zum Essen oder Trinken. Auf nach zwei Tagen brachen die Häftlinge die Einperrung auf und gingen ins Lager Hof. Von der SS-Bewachung war schon damals niemand. Als sich die Häftlinge in den Magazin von Lebensmittel; des Lagers hereingelegt haben, um ihren Hunger zu stillen; fanden sie dort Rot-Kreuz Pakete. Inetzischer wurde das Lager befreit (hauptächlich)
- Das wäre alles was ich über diesem Lager sagen kann; soweit ich es in Gedächtniss behalten habe.
Ich rechne damit dass ich mit meinen Angaben mitbeigetragen

POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE
RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE pg. 3

III
habe über dieses Lager aufgeklärt zu werden und damit
auch ermöglicht mir die gewünschte und benötigte
(Anstellung) Haftbestätigung ausstellen zu helfen.
Ich bin Ihnen im Voraus höchlichst dankbar für Ihre
Bemühungen; und erwarte möglichst schnelle Antwort:
Sara Joskowitz geb. Tenenberg.

I.	MAIL OFFICE
T.	DATE RECEIVED 14.4.50
S.	REG. NO. 462

envelope enclosed

Neustadt — Glewe

POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE

TRANSLATION pg. I

Bayerisch-Gmain March 12, 1950

To
the
International Tracing Service
in Arolsen, Waldeck District

In possession of your letter from 4 March 1950; regarding the report about the Neustaedt Gleve *KZ-Lager* [abbreviation for *Konzentrationslager*, or concentration camp]; I can make the following statements:

1. I came into the *KZ-Lager* Neustaedt-Gleve from the KZ Ravensbrück and as far as I remember, the transport by train took about one and a half to two hours, so that the closest larger village or small town to this camp can be assumed to be the town of Ravensbrück. The camp lay behind [beyond] the village near the forest. It was made up of about 5-6 wooden barracks. When we arrived there we were accommodated in rooms of about 60-70 people each. We had to lie on the floor the whole time as no more bunks were available. Others who came earlier had wooden bunks ~~4~~ each for sleeping, which were bunkbeds where 4-5 persons slept one on top of the other. Near this camp were SS barracks that belonged to the camp authorities. When the prisoners were on their way to work they always met French prisoners of war, so one can assume with certainty that near the camp was a prisoner of war camp.
2. The inmates of the Neustaedt-Gleve camp were in two groups - one working by day and the other at night, in a munitions factory. I myself was not marched out to work because at that time I was sick.
3. The camp was secured with barbed wire and electrical current and watched by SS-guards.
4. Bombings of the camp did not take place, but in the surrounding area – they did.
5. Cases of death occurred, as sickness epidemics were frequent. I am not in a position to describe the average number of the dead. Also, segregations of sick prisoners took place frequently—they were sent back to Ravensbrück concentration camp and never came back.

POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE

TRANSLATION pg. 2

6. The number of prisoners was in this camp was generally not large, (when I arrived) about 400-500 people.
7. In this camp there were only female prisoners, since this was a women's camp.
8. I cannot know when the camp was opened, I was liberated there in May 1945.
9. On liberation day American and Russian troops arrived, then they changed over and the Russian ones stayed.
10. The camp was not evacuated.
11. The names of surviving fellow prisoners who have gone abroad to Italy are: Nunberg, Holzman, Schwarzberg and others whose names I do not remember exactly. The addresses of my fellow prisoners are however not known to me.
12. The clothing that we wore there was ~~civilian~~, partly civilian; which was marked on the back with oil paint, and some of the clothing for the prisoners who marched out to work was marked with different colored sleeves of the outer garments.
13. I assume that this camp belonged to KZ Ravensbrück.
14. Two days before our liberation we were herded into the barracks and locked in: the windows were wired and the doors were locked, and we got nothing at all to eat or drink. ~~On~~ After two days the prisoners broke open the locked doors and went into the camp yard. Of the SS-guards there was no one left. When the prisoners got into the food stores of the camp; in order to quiet their hunger; they found Red Cross packages there. Meanwhile the camp was liberated.

**POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE
RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE**
TRANSLATION pg. 3

This was mainly everything that I can say about this camp, as far as I can remember.

I reckon that with my statements I have helped to clarify about this camp and also made it possible to make you want to give me the wished-for and necessary proof of imprisonment.

I thank you most kindly in advance for your efforts; and await the speediest possible reply.

Sara Joskowitz, née Tenenberg

Editors' note: Ms. Joskowitz was mistaken in her thought that the ITS required her submission of further testimony to receive official documentation of her imprisonment and persecution. Rather, it simply had been a request. Her related documentation would be issued regardless of any further submission on her part.

POSTWAR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE RAVENSBRÜCK SUBCAMP AT NEUSTADT-GLEWE

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- What information can survivor testimony provide that might otherwise be unavailable? What does this document reveal about prisoner life under the Nazis?
- Who is the author of this document, and to whom is she writing? What motivated the author to draft this testimony?
- Which aspects of women's experiences under Nazi persecution are illuminated by this document?
- When was this narrative written? What might the date suggest about the document and its contents?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- Nazi policies regarding women
- Nazi treatment of Jewish women, female camp inmates, and female foreign forced laborers
- The Ravensbrück concentration camp and its subcamps
- Early survivor testimony



JEWISH WOMEN AT AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU AFTER DISINFECTION AND HEAD-SHAVING AFTER THEIR SELECTION FOR FORCED LABOR IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE 1944.

Nazi leaders were relentless in their campaign to annihilate the Jews of Europe even when personnel and resources were badly needed by Germany's beleaguered military. After the defeats at Stalingrad and Kursk, and even after the Normandy invasion, German authorities and their Hungarian allies deported approximately 440,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau between May 15 and July 9, 1944. More than 300,000 of these men, women, and children were murdered immediately in the camp's gas chambers. Able-bodied adults selected for forced labor were disinfected, shaved, and registered among the inmate population. This photograph of Jewish women from Subcarpathian Rus (located in wartime Hungary, now Ukraine) was taken in late May or early June 1944 and is part of the so-called Auschwitz Album compiled by SS officers in the camp's photographic laboratory. Nearly a dozen female members of the Birnbaum family are pictured here, including singer Bubi Birnbaum, whom German guards occasionally forced to perform with her sisters Piri and Suri. Concentration camp inmates were often forced to entertain their captors, and at some camps, such as Birkenau, they assembled full orchestras of professional musicians.

Photo credit: Yad Vashem (public domain).

6 TRANSLATED LIST OF RECEIPTS FROM THE BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP'S SO-CALLED BROTHEL

This record of receipts lists the family names of forced sex laborers who were made to work in the Buchenwald concentration camp's so-called brothel (the euphemistic German label applied to these facilities was *Sonderbauten*, or "special buildings"). Some columns reflect the level of administrative bureaucracy upheld in concentration camps, including in a "brothel," and provide exact statistics of "customers" served, the total a woman had been "paid" in one night of work, and which laborers had been ill on that particular evening. Despite the seemingly meticulous record keeping and indication of payment, forced sex laborers received little or no remuneration. The Allies translated this document for use as evidence in postwar war crimes trials.

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Date typed:
4 May 45.
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BORDEL RECEIPTS FOR 7 Aug 1943
Weimar-Buchenwald, 8 Aug 1943

Department III Concentration Camp

Name of Prostitute	No of Customers	Total Pd In Night	Her Share	House Share	State Share
STAHLHEBER	Served as cashier on this evening				
ZANGE	9	18.00 RM	4.05 RM	-.45 RM	13.50 RM
RATHMANN	9	18.00 RM	4.05 RM	-.45 RM	13.50 RM
EHLEBRECHT	Ill				
FISCHER	8	16.00 RM	3.60 RM	-.40 RM	12.00 RM
DUSTEDAU	6	12.00 RM	2.70 RM	-.30 RM	9.00 RM
CHRISTMANN	7	14.00 RM	3.15 RM	-.35 RM	10.50 RM
BYKOWSKI	Ill				
RAFALSKA	7	14.00 RM	3.15 RM	-.35 RM	10.50 RM
KOLBUSCH	6	12.00 RM	2.70 RM	-.30 RM	9.00 RM
GOEBEL	6	12.00 RM	2.70 RM	-.30 RM	9.00 RM
MIERAU	5	10.00 RM	2.25 RM	-.25 RM	7.50 RM
WOHLERS	5	10.00 RM	2.25 RM	-.25 RM	7.50 RM
HECK	8	16.00 RM	3.60 RM	-.40 RM	12.00 RM
ZIMMERMANN	Ill				
MARTIN	10	20.00 RM	4.50 RM	-.50 RM	15.00 RM
	86	172.00 RM	38.70 RM	4.30 RM	129.00 RM

Total: 129.00 RM

In Words One Hundred Twenty Nine Reichsmarks -
The Second Schutzhaftlagerfuhrer.
plus 43.50 RM

/s/ FRICKE /s/ KOCH /s/ GUST

SS Unterscharfuhrer SS Unterscharfuhrer SS Obersturmfuhrer

Of Arthur J. Lindsay
32412799

Translated list of receipts from the Buchenwald concentration camp's so-called brothel, 1.1.5.0/82064988/ITS Digital Archive.

TRANSLATED LIST OF RECEIPTS FROM THE BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP'S SO-CALLED BROTHEL

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- Why might the camp administration have kept detailed records of the practice of forced sex labor?
- For what purposes might the camp administration have established this practice? What does this document reveal about the value of this practice to Nazi authorities?
- Can anything be inferred from the information in this document about the identities of the women or their “customers”?
- What does this document suggest about Nazi policies towards female camp inmates? Is this consistent or inconsistent with Nazi policies towards women in general?
- When and why was this document created? For what purpose was it translated?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- So-called camp brothels within the Nazi camp system and the women forced to work there
- Sexual violence in the context of genocide and war
- Nazi policies regarding women
- Specific groups of female victims of Nazi persecution



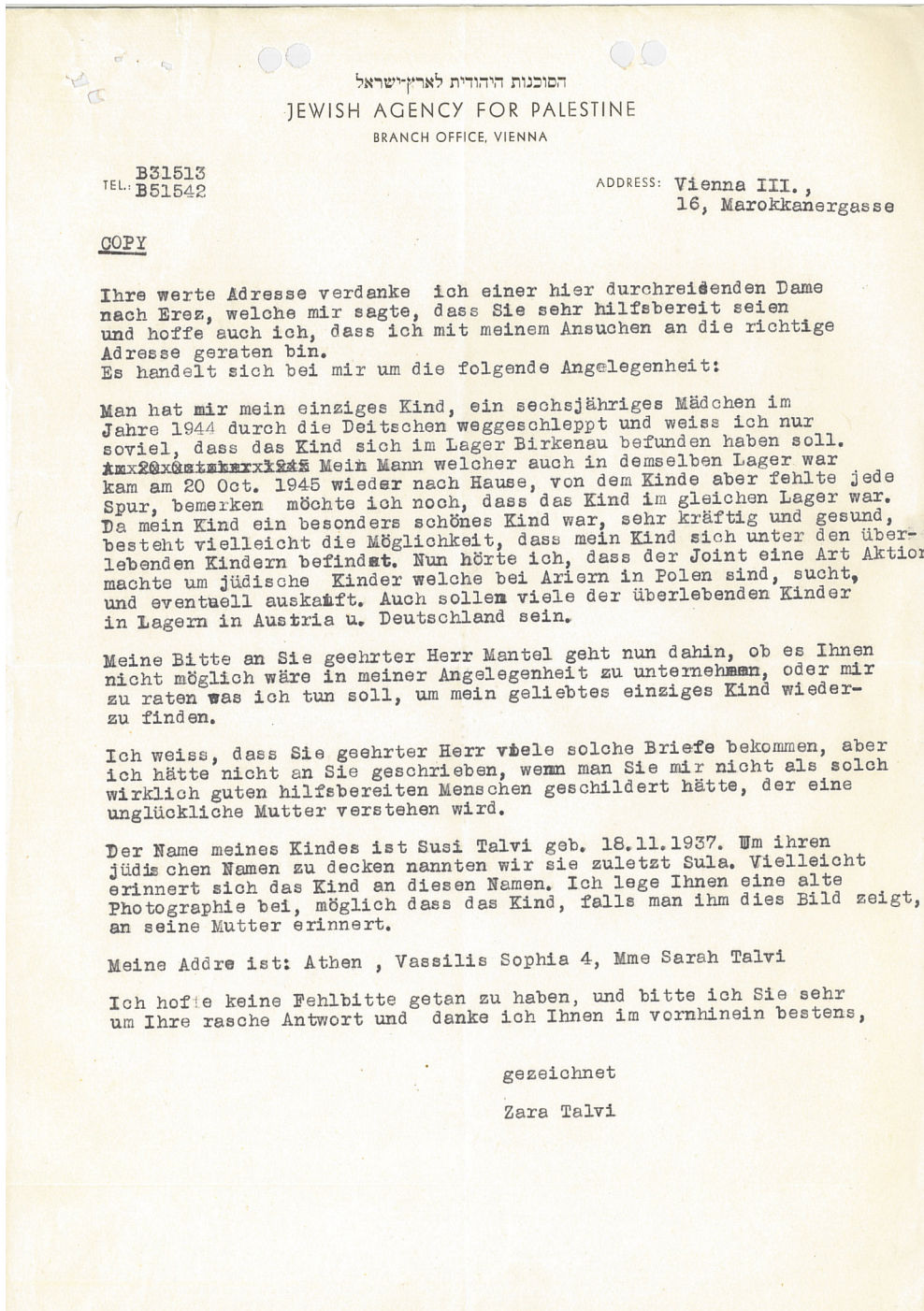
A TRANSPORT BOUND FOR TREBLINKA AT THE SIEDLCE RAILWAY STATION IN AUGUST 1942.

Before the war, approximately 15,000 Jews resided in the eastern Polish city of Siedlce, located about 50 miles east of Warsaw in the General Government of occupied Poland. German forces occupied the city during the first weeks of the war and established a closed ghetto for Jews there in August 1941. This photograph, taken on August 22, 1942, depicts a scene from a massive deportation action, during which German forces marched approximately 10,000 Jewish men, women, and children through the city streets, boarded them onto trains, and transported them to Treblinka. Women often assumed responsibility for children during deportation actions, much like those in the foreground of this photograph. Among the deportees were half-starved orphans and refugees. The barefoot and emaciated people in this photo attest to this. While German police supervised the deportation, they were assisted by Ukrainian auxiliary police (also known as Trawniki men) and Polish “Blue” police. Upon arrival at Treblinka, SS personnel separated the prisoners by gender, charging women with the care of young relatives and offspring as they forced them all to undress and run along a fenced-in path to gas chambers disguised as showers. Days after this photograph was taken, SS authorities temporarily halted deportations to Treblinka because malfunctioning gas chambers (fed carbon monoxide pumped in by engines) forced them to turn to executing large numbers of Jewish victims by shooting.

Photo credit: Wiener Library.

7 LETTER FROM ZARA TALVI TO CHILD TRACING BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

This letter, its translation, and the photograph on the following pages are part of an ITS Child Tracing Branch file comprised of correspondence and documentation about the search for missing child Susi Talvi. The Nazis deported Susi and her father to Auschwitz-Birkenau from Athens in the summer of 1944. They were separated and, at least to the date of this correspondence, had not seen one another again. Zara Talvi, the child's mother, made this written inquiry about her daughter, in which she indicated that she believed that the child's particularly "Aryan" appearance might have made her desirable for "Germanization." (This was Zara Talvi's hope, but in reality the Nazis did not seek to "Germanize" Jews.) No further documentation exists in the ITS digital archive indicating that Susi survived or that she was reunited with her parents.



Letter from Zara Talvi to Child Tracing Branch of the International Tracing Service, 6.3.2.1/84594492/ITS Digital Archive.

LETTER FROM ZARA TALVI TO CHILD TRACING BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

Translation.

Jewish Agency for Palestine
Branch Office Vienna III,
16, Marokkanergasse.

C o p y .

A lady travelling to Erez and on passage here gave me your esteemed address saying that you are very helpful and so I too hope to have found the right address for my request.

My case is as follows:

My only child, a girl 6 years old, has been abducted by the Germans in 1944 and the only thing I know is that the child is said to have been in Camp Birkenau. My husband, who had been in the same camp, came back again on 20th October, 1945, but there was no trace left of the child, please note that the child had been in the same camp. As my child was a particularly beautiful child, very strong and healthy, it might be that my child is among the surviving children. Now I have heard that Joint had started sort of an action in order to trace Jewish children living with Aryans in Poland and to ransom them. Besides, many of the surviving children are said to be living in Austria and Germany.

My request to you, much esteemed Mr. Mantel, is, whether you could not undertake something in my matter or advise me what I should do in order to find my beloved only child again.

I know, dear sir, that you receive many such letters, but I should not have written to you if you would not have been described to me as such a really good and helpful man, who will understand an unhappy mother.

The child's name is Susi Talvi born 18.11.1937. In order to cover her Jewish name, we called her Sula during the last time. It might be that the child remembers this name. I am attaching an old photograph, it might be that the child remembers her mother when she is shown this picture.

My address is: Athens, Vassilis Sophia 4, Mme Sarah Talvi.

I hope that I have not requested in vain and beseech you to answer me quickly and thank you very much

sgd. Zara Talvi.

IP 17.11.48.

LETTER FROM ZARA TALVI TO CHILD TRACING BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE



Zara Talvi and her daughter, Susi, sit in a park on a sunny day before the war. Still searching for her missing daughter in 1948, Zara included this photograph with her letter of inquiry to the ITS Child Tracing Branch.

Photo credit: Child Tracing Branch, ITS.

LETTER FROM ZARA TALVI TO CHILD TRACING BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO THIS DOCUMENT

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

- How might historians use such requests for information about missing persons?
- Why does the mother who wrote this letter believe that her child could still be alive?
- What is the mother implying when she mentions her daughter's good looks, strength, and health? What does she hope happened to her child?
- In what ways might the date of the letter be significant? Why might such an inquiry come in late 1948?
- What does this document suggest about the search for Displaced Persons in postwar Europe?

FURTHER RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO THIS DOCUMENT:

- Child tracing work done in the postwar period
- Orphans' experiences in the postwar period
- Family reunification after the Holocaust
- Survivors and loss after the Holocaust

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ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history, and serves as its memorial to the millions of people killed during the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), people with mental and physical disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi Germany. A living memorial to the Holocaust, the Museum strives to inspire leaders and citizens to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. Its primary mission is to advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy, to preserve the memory of those who suffered, and to encourage all people to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

For more information, visit ushmm.org.

The International Tracing Service (ITS) is a center for documenting National Socialist persecution and the liberated survivors. Former victims of Nazism and their families receive information regarding their incarceration, forced labor, and if available, postwar Allied assistance. The archives provide the foundation for ITS research and education, which are enhanced through collaboration with other international memorials, archives, and research institutions. The ITS commemorates and memorializes the victims of the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes. As of 2013 the original documents in the ITS archives are included on the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Registry.

For more information, visit its-arolsen.org.

The Wiener Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era. Formed in 1933, the Library's unique collection of over one million items includes published and unpublished works, press cuttings, photographs and eyewitness testimony. Our mission is to serve scholars, professional researchers, the media and the public as a library of record. We aim to be a living memorial to the evils of the past by ensuring that our wealth of materials is put at the service of the future, and we seek to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in understanding the Holocaust and its historical context through an active educational programme. Finally, we strive to communicate the accessibility, power and contemporary relevance of our collections as a national resource for those wishing to prevent possible future genocides.

For more information, visit wienerlibrary.co.uk.

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